

**Claims**

- 5 1. A pharmaceutical composition comprising Varicella Zoster Virus IE63 protein or an immunologically functional derivative and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.
2. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a nucleic acid encoding IE63 or an immunologically functional derivative thereof.
- 10 3. IE63 gene protein or immunologically functional derivative thereof for use in medicine.
4. Use of IE 63 protein or an immunologically active derivative thereof for the manufacture of a medicament for the prevention or amelioration of Varicella or Zoster.
- 15 5. A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 1 additionally comprising other VZV antigens.
6. A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 5 wherein the second Varicella Zoster protein is selected from the group, gpI, gpII, gpIII, gpIV, gpV or IE62 or immunological functional derivative thereof.
- 20 7. A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 1, 2, 5 or 6 additionally comprising an adjuvant.
8. A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 7 wherein the adjuvant preferentially induces a TH1 response.
9. A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 9 wherein the antigen is presented as an oil in water emulsion together with QS21 and 3D-MPL.
- 25 10. A method of treating a patient suffering from or susceptible to Varicella Zoster virus infection, comprising administering to a patient a safe and effective amount

of a pharmaceutical composition as claimed in any one of claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8 or 9.

11. A method of producing a pharmaceutical composition comprising a Varicella  
Zoster virus IE63 protein, nucleic acid or immunologically functional derivative  
5 thereof, comprising mixing said protein, nucleic acid or derivative with a  
pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.
12. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the excipient comprises an adjuvant.